



Atty. Dkt. No. 016754-0206

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: David M. ANDERSON et al.

Title: ENZYME TREATMENT

Appl. No.: 09/731,971

Filing Date: December 8, 2000

Notice of Allowance
Mailed February 11, 2004

Examiner: RAO

Art Unit: 1652

APPLICANTS' RESPONSE TO
EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop: ISSUE FEE

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Accompanying a Notice of Allowance mailed February 11, 2004, in connection with the captioned application, was an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance. These are applicants' comments with respect to the latter.

Applicants agree that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed invention. Thus, for example, there is no hint in the prior art of a composition comprising an enzyme and a physiologically acceptable carrier for it, which enzyme effects cleavage of a linkage that is comprised of a phosphatidylinositol and that membrane-anchors a surface protein or a carbohydrate on a pathogen, whereby the cleavage effects release of the surface protein or carbohydrate, where the composition is in a form suitable for oral administration to a host and

where the cleavage interferes with pathogen binding to a host cell in the intestines, such that the infective ability of the pathogen to the host cell is reduced.

To the extent that the Examiner's Statement may suggest, however, that any single feature of the claimed composition distinguishes the claimed invention over the prior art, then applicants respectfully disagree. Instead, applicants believe that it is the invention as a whole that is patentable.

Respectfully submitted,

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FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Washington Harbour
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20007-5143
Telephone: (202) 672-5404
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By S.A. Bent

Stephen A. Bent
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 29,768